

a second data table containing media access control addresses. The relevant portion of claim 1 reads as follows:

a data table for holding data entries each comprising a media access control address and an identification of a port, and a pointer table of which the entries each comprise a network address and an associated pointer to an entry in the said data table. [emphasis added]

Michels does not disclose a first table containing pointers to a second table containing media access control address. Moreover, the Office Actions have never identified a pair of tables in which the second table (*i.e.*, the table that is being pointed to) contains MAC addresses.

On page 6 of the final Office Action, the Examiner states that “Michael [sic: Michels] in col. 11 lines 23-45 discloses a looking up table that includes a pointer table 202 having pointers pointing to a destination network addressing table having network addresses.” But the claims state that the second table must contain MAC addresses – *not* network addresses. In the present claims, the network addresses are contained in the first table. Thus, the Examiner’s statement still does not affect the patentability of the claims which state that the network addresses are in a first table that points to a second table having MAC addresses.

The significant advantages of the presently-claimed subject matter are described in detail in Applicant’s August 27, 2002 Amendment, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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